

Miami Art Museum



CONTACTS:

Miami Art Central
5960 SW 57th Avenue
Miami, Florida 33143
Liana Perez, (305) 455-3349, lperez@efcholdings.com

Miami Art Museum
101 West Flagler Street
Miami, Florida 33130
Mitch Snow, (305) 375-1705, snowmit@miamidade.gov

Rubenstein Public Relations for MAC
1345 Avenue of the Americas, 30th Floor
New York, NY 10105
Arlyn Davich, (212) 843-8392, adavich@rubensteinpr.com

**MIAMI ART MUSEUM (MAM) AND MIAMI ART CENTRAL (MAC)
UNITE IN GROUNDBREAKING PARTNERSHIP**

Miami, FL (December 15, 2006) -- Ella Fontanals-Cisneros, founder and Chairman of the Board of Trustees at Miami Art Central (MAC) and Aaron Podhurst, Chair of the Miami Art Museum (MAM), today announced the institutions are combining resources to form "MAC @ MAM." The agreement, which is effective immediately, states that MAC will produce significant original exhibitions and programs at MAM, adding to the latter's ongoing educational and exhibition programs.

MAM Director Terence Riley stated, "The new relationship between the Miami Art Museum and Miami Art Central is a cause for real celebration. Under the leadership of Ella Fontanals-Cisneros, MAC has, in its short history, not only established a distinguished record of exhibitions, but also made a name for itself among the international art community. We are proud to help MAC extend its legacy into the future. With the Museum's new building on the near horizon, and Miami's growing

prominence worldwide, the time for this collaboration could not be better for either institution, as well as for the citizens of Miami-Dade.”

Ella Fontanals-Cisneros added, “As a long-time member of MAM’s Board of Trustees, I could see that the missions of MAM and MAC were converging. By uniting forces, we will be able to produce more original exhibitions and publications. Bringing the strengths of the two institutions together will help ensure a bright future for contemporary artists and art audiences in South Florida and internationally. I speak on behalf of the entire MAC board when I say that we are delighted with the new alliance and look forward to playing a central role in the development of this new stage in the cultural life of Miami. This initiative is an invitation to the community and the collectors in the area to work together toward making the new MAM one of the best museums in the United States.”

The creation of ‘MAC @ MAM’ represents the most recent of Fontanals-Cisneros’ contributions to the Miami art community. In 2002, Ella Fontanals-Cisneros founded the Cisneros Fontanals Art Foundation (CIFO): the non-profit that funded MAC. The following year, she opened MAC as an art institution dedicated to multidisciplinary exhibitions and programs exploring contemporary art and culture. Just last year, Ella Fontanals-Cisneros commissioned the building of CIFO Art Space: a permanent venue for the presentation of art exhibitions highlighting works by it’s grantees and commissioned artists; experimental, challenging art programs; and works from her personal collection. CIFO is not affected by this agreement.

The first collaborative effort of MAC @ MAM will display the works of Peter Friedl and Tacita Dean, which opens January 20 at the South Miami space.

In September 2006, MAM’s Trustees selected Pritzker Prize and Royal Gold Medal-winning architects Herzog & de Meuron to design a new and expanded facility, scheduled to open in Miami’s Museum Park in 2010. The new, 125,000-square-foot MAM, which will overlook Biscayne Bay, will include 32,000 square feet of galleries, providing space for larger, more diverse, and more expansive displays of both the Museum’s collection and special exhibitions. MAM anticipates a total cost for its new museum of \$208 million, the largest portion of which—\$120 million—will be used to cover the costs directly associated with the construction of the building and sculpture garden. The largest single source of funding for the project is the County’s General-Obligation Bond. In November 2004, Miami-Dade County voters overwhelmingly approved a bond that includes \$100 million for the construction of the Museum building.

Miami Art Central

Ella Fontanals-Cisneros founded Miami Art Central in 2003, providing Miami with an alternative space dedicated to multidisciplinary exhibitions and programs exploring contemporary art and culture. Located in South Miami in a 1940s building redesigned by Italian architect Alessandro Fiorentino, MAC has two exhibition galleries with 20,000 square feet of space. In addition to championing the work of Florida artists, MAC has hosted notable exhibitions of major Latin American modernists such as Gego, video artists including William Kentridge, and surveys of

photography, such as *Snap Judgements: New Positions in Contemporary African Photography*.

MAC has developed outstanding educational programs for families and adults, including a distinguished-speaker series featuring artists, museum professionals, critics, and scholars from throughout the world. It also sponsors a Sunday contemporary music program and has presented two film series, one focused on international avant garde cinema and one on new works from Latin America.

Miami Art Museum

MAM is dedicated to engaging a broad public with art from the twentieth century through the present. The Museum's collection, which in 1999 was called "the quintessential Miami collection" by *Art in America* magazine, looks at international art from the perspective of the Americas and reflects the cosmopolitan makeup of Miami, forging connections among diverse groups and ideas.

Accredited by the American Association of Museums, the Miami Art Museum is sponsored in part by the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs and the Florida Arts Council, and the National Endowment for the Arts, with the support of the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs, the Cultural Affairs Council, the Mayor and the Board of County Commissioners.